The tender leaves of hopes, to-morrow blossoms,
And bears his blushing honours thick upon him;
The third day comes a frost, a killing frost;
And when he thinks, good easy man, full surely
His greatness is a ripening, *nips* his root;
And then he falls as I do. *Shakespeare's Henry* VIII.

A flower doth spread and dye,
Thou would'st extend me to some good,
Before I were by frost's extremity *nipt* in the bud. *Herb.*

His delivery now proves
Abortive, as the first-born bloom of spring,
Nipt with the lagging rear of winter's frost. *Milton.*

Had he not been *nipped* in the bud, he might have made a formidable figure in his own works among posterity. *Add.*

From such encouragement it is easy to guess to what perfection I might have brought this great work, had it not been *nipt* in the bud. *Arbuthnot's John Bull.*

4. To pinch as frost.

The air bites shrewdly, it is very cold. —
—It is a *nipping* and an eager air. *Shakes. Hamlet.*

When isicles hang by the wall,
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail;
When blood is *nipt*, and ways be foul,
Then nighty sings the staring owl. *Sha. Love's L. Lost.*

5. To vex; to bite.

And sharp remorse his heart did prick and *nip*,
That drops of blood thence like a well did play. *Fairy Q.*

6. To satirise; to ridicule; to taunt sarcastically.

But the right gentle mind would bite his lip
To hear the javel so good men to *nip*. *Hubberd's Tale.*

Quick wits commonly be in desire new-fangled; in purpose unconstant; bold with any person; busy in every matter; soothing such as be present, *nipping* any that is absent. *Ascham's Schoolmaster.*

NIP. *n. s.* [from the verb.]

1. A pinch with the nails or teeth.

I am sharply taunted, yea, sometimes with pinches, *nips*, and bobs. *Ascham's Schoolmaster.*

2. A small cut.

What this a sleeve? 'tis like a demicannon;
What up and down carv'd like an apple-tart?
Here's snip, and *nip*, and cut, and slish, and slash,
Like to a censer in a barber's shop. *Shakespeare.*

3. A blast.

So hasty fruits and too ambitious flow'rs,
Scorning the midwifry of rip'ning show'rs,
In spight of frosts, spring from th' unwilling earth,
But find a *nip* untimely as their birth. *Stepney.*

4. A taunt; a sarcasm.

NI'PPER. *n. s.* [from *nip*.] A satirist. Out of use.

Ready backbiters, sore *nippers*, and spiteful reporters privily of good men. *Ascham.*

NI'PPERS. *n. s.* [from *nip*.] Small pincers.

NI'PPINGLY. *adv.* [from *nip*.] With bitter sarcasm.

NI'PPLE. *n. s.* [nÿpele, Saxon.]

1. The teat; the dug; that which the sucking young take into their mouths.

Tho' tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me. —
I would, while it was smiling in my face,
Have pluckt my *nipple* from his boneless gums. *Shakesp.*

In creatures that nourish their young with milk, are adapted the *nipples* of the breast to the mouth and organs of suction. *Ray on the Creation.*

2. The orifice at which any animal liquor is separated.

In most other birds there is only one gland, in which are divers little cells ending in two or three larger cells, lying under the *nipple* of the oil bag. *Derham's Physico Theol.*

NI'PPLEWORT. *n. s.* [Lampsana.] A very common weed.

NISI PRIUS. *n. s.*

[In law.] A judicial writ, which lieth in case where the inquest is panelled, and returned before the justices of the bank; the one party or the other making petition to have this writ for the ease of the country. It is directed to the sheriffs, commanding that he cause the men impanelled to come before the justices in the same county, for the determining of the cause there, except it be so difficult that it need great deliberation: in which case, it is sent again to the bank. It is so called from the first words of the writ *nisi apud talem locum prius venerint*; whereby it appeareth, that justices of assizes and justices of *nisi prius*, differ. So that justices of *nisi prius*, must be one of them before whom the cause is depending in the bench, with some other good men of the county associated to him. *Cowel.*

NIT. *n. s.* [hnæt, Saxon.] The egg of a louse, or small animal.

The whame, or burrel-fly, is vexatious to horses in summer, not by stinging them, but only by their bombylious noise, or tickling them in sticking their *nits*, or eggs, on the hair. *Derham's Physico Theol.*

NI'TENCY. *n. s.* [*nitentia*, Latin.]

1. Lustre; clear brightness.

2. [From the Latin, *nitor*.] Endeavour; spring to expand itself.

The atoms of fire accelerate the motion of these particles; from which acceleration their spring, or endeavour outward will be augmented; that is, those zones will have a strong *nitency* to fly wider open. *Boyle.*

NI'THING. *n. s.* A coward, dastard, poltroon.

NI'TID. *adj.* [*nitidus*, Latin.] Bright; shining; lustrous.

We restore old pieces of dirty gold to a clean and *nitid* yellow, by putting them into fire and aqua fortis, which take off the adventitious filth. *Boyle on Colours.*

NI'TRE. *n. s.* [*nitre*, Fr. *nitrum*, Latin.]

The salt which we know at this time, under the name of *nitre* or salt-petre, is a crystalline pellucid, but somewhat whitish substance, of an acrid and bitterish taste, impressing a peculiar sense of coldness upon the tongue. This salt, though it affords, by means of fire, an acid spirit capable of dissolving almost every thing, yet manifests no sign of its containing any acid at all in its crude state. *Nitre* is of the number of those salts which are naturally blended in imperceptible particles in earths, stones, and other fossile substances, as the particles of metals are in their ores: it is sometimes however found pure, in form of an efflorescence, either on its ores or on the surface of old walls; these efflorescences dissolved in proper water, shooting into regular and proper crystals of *nitre*. That this salt should be found on the surface of walls is not wonderful, since it is found only on or near the surface of the earth where it is produced. The earth from which *nitre* is made, both in Persia and the East-Indies, is a kind of yellowish marl found in the bare cliffs of the sides of hills exposed to the northern and eastern winds, and never in any other situation. From this marl the salt is separated by water; but the crystals into which it shoots, as we receive them from the East-Indies, are small, imperfect, and impure. Earths of whatever kind, moistened by the dung and excrement of animals, frequently afford *nitre* in large quantities. The earths at the bottom of pigeon-houses, and those of stables and cow-houses, all afford *nitre*, on being throwa into water and boiled. In France, where very little *nitre* is imported, they make it from the rubbish of old mortar and plaister of buildings; and the mortar of old walls with us, if moistened with urine and exposed to the air in a proper situation that is open to the north east, and covered over to defend it from wet, never fails to afford *nitre* in a few weeks, and that in proportion of one tenth of the weight of the ingredients. There is no question but a manufactory of *nitre* might be established in England to as much advantage as that of France. The place where the materials are exposed, is to be carefully examined. It must be moderate as to the great points of moisture and dryness; if there be too much moisture the *nitre* which is already formed will be washed away, and without some moisture the salts will hardly be ever formed. Heat and coldness, unless excessive, can be of no consequence. It is on account of the requisiteness of so certain a degree of moisture to the materials from which *nitre* is obtained, that the north east winds are of so much use in the production of it. In spring and autumn, which are the seasons when this salt is principally made, these two winds are neither too moist nor too dry, especially in the night; the south and west winds are destructive, because they bring storms and showers. In medicine, *nitre* is cooling and diuretick, and good in burning fevers. The natrum or *nitre* of the ancients, is a genuine, native, and pure salt, extremely different from our *nitre*, and from all other native salts; being a fixed alkali plainly of the nature of those made by fire from vegetables, yet being capable of a regular crystallization, which those salts are not. It is found on or very near the surface of the earth, in thin flat cakes, spungy, light, and friable; and when pure, of a pale brownish white colour. It is of an acrid taste, like pot-ashes. About Smyrna and Ephesus, and through a great part of Asia Minor, this salt is extremely frequent on the surface of the earth, and also in Sindy, a province of the inner Asia, where they sweep it up and call it soap-earth, using a solution or lye of it in washing. The natrum or *nitre* of the ancients, has been by some supposed to be a lost substance, and by others to be the same with our *nitre* or salt-petre; but both these opinions are erroneous, this salt being the true natrum of the ancients, answering perfectly to its description, and having all its uses and virtues. In scripture we find that the salt called *nitre* would ferment with vinegar, and had an abstersive quality, properties which perfectly agree with this salt but not with salt-petre, as do many different qualities ascribed to it by the ancients. *Hill on Foss.*

Some tumultuous cloud,
Instinct with fire and *nitre*, hurried him. *Milton.*

Some steep their seed, and some in cauldrons boil,
With vigorous *nitre* and with lees of oil. *Dryden.*

NI'TROUS. *adj.* [*nitreux*, Fr. from *nitre*.] Impregnated with nitre; consisting of nitre.

Earth and water, mingled by the heat of the sun, gather a *nitrous* fatness more than either of them have severally. *Bacon's Natural History.*

The northern air being more fully charged with those particles supposed *nitrous*, which are the aliment of fire, is fittest to maintain the vital heat in that activity which is sufficient to move such an unweildy bulk with due celerity. *Ray.*

He to quench his drought so much inclin'd,
May snowy fields and *nitrous* pastures find,
Meet stores of cold so greedily pursu'd,
And be refresh'd with never-wasting food. *Blackmore.*

NI'TRY. *adj.* [from *nitre*.] Nitrous.

Winter my theme confines; whose *nitry* wind
Shall crust the slabby mire, and kennels bind. *Gay.*

NI'TTILY. *adv.* [from *nitty*.] Lousily.

One Bell was put to death at Tyburn for moving a new rebellion; he was a man *nittily* needy, and therefore adventrous. *Hayward.*

NI'TTY. *adj.* [from *nit*.] Abounding with the eggs of lice.

NI'VAL. *adj.* [*nivalis*, Latin.] Abounding with snow. *Dict.*

NI'VEOUS. *adj.* [*niveus*, Latin.] Snowy; resembling snow.

Cinabar becomes red by the acid exhalation of sulphur, which otherways presents a pure and *niveous* white. *Brown.*

NI'ZY. *n. s.* A dunce; a simpleton. A low word.

NO. *adv.* [na, Saxon.]

1. The word of refusal.

Our courteous Antony,
Whom ne'er the word of *no*, woman heard speak,
Being barber'd ten times o'er, goes to the feast. *Shakes.*

Henceforth my wooing mind shall be expreft,
In russet yeas and honest kersy *noes*. *Sha. L. Labours Lost.*

If you will not consider these things now, the time will shortly come when you shall consider them whether you will or *no*. *Calamy's Serm.*

2. The word of denial opposite to concession or affirmation.

I think it would not sort amiss, to handle the question, whether a war for the propagation of the Christian faith, without another cause of hostility, be lawful or *no*, and in what cases? *Bacon.*

3. It sometimes confirms a foregoing negative.

My name's Macbeth: —
—The Devil himself could not pronounce a title
More hateful to mine ear. —
—*No*, nor more fearful. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

Never more
This hand shall combat on the crooked shore:
No; let the Grecian pow'rs oppreft in fight,
Unpity'd perish in their tyrant's fight. *Dryd. Homer.*

4. It sometimes strengthens a following negative; *no not*, not even.

No not the bow which so adorns the skies,
So glorious is, or boasts so many dies. *Waller.*

No. *adj.*

1. Not any; none.

Let their be *no* strife between me and thee. *Gen.* xiii. 8.

Woman and fool are two hard things to hit,
For true *no* meaning puzzles more than wit. *Pope.*

2. It seems an adjective in these phrases, no longer, no more, no where.

When we saw that they were *no* where, we came to Samuel. 1 *Sam.* x. 14.

In vain I reach my feeble hands to join
In sweet embraces; ah! *no* longer thine. *Dryden.*

3. *No one*; none; not any one.

No one who doeth good to those only from whom he expects to receive good, can ever be fully satisfied of his own sincerity. *Smalridge's Serm.*

To NOBI'LITATE. *v. a.* [*nobilito*, Latin.] To ennoble; to make noble.

NOBI'LITY. *n. s.* [*nobilitas*, Latin.]

1. Antiquity of family joined with splendour.

When I took up Boccace unawares, I fell on the same argument of preferring virtue to *nobility* of blood, and titles, in the story of Sigismunda. *Dryden, Fab. Pref.*

Long galleries of ancestors,
Challenge, nor wonder, or esteem from me,
"Virtue alone is true *nobility*." *Dryden.*

2. Rank or dignity of several degrees, conferred by sovereigns. *Nobility* in England is extended to five ranks; duke, marquis, earl, viscount, baron.

3. The persons of high rank; the persons who are exalted above the commons.

It is a purpos'd thing,
To curb the will of the *nobility*. *Shakes. Coriolanus.*

4. Dignity; grandeur; greatness.

Though she hated Ampialus, yet the *nobility* of her courage prevailed over it; and she desired he might be pardoned that youthful errour; considering the reputation he had to be the best knight in the world; so as hereafter he governed himself, as one remembering his fault. *Sidney, b.* ii.

But ah, my muse, I would thou hadst facility
To work my goddess so by thy invention,
On me to cast those eyes where shine *nobility*. *Sidney.*

Base men, being in love, have then a *nobility* in their natures more than is native to them. *Shakespeare's Othello.*

They thought it great their sov'reign to controul,
And nam'd their pride, *nobility* of soul. *Dryden.*

NO'BLE. *adj.* [*noble*, Fr. *nobilis*, Latin.]

1. Of an ancient and splendid family.

2. Exalted to a rank above commonalty.

From virtue first began,
The diff'rence that distinguish'd man from man:
He claim'd no title from descent of blood,
But that which made him *noble*, made him good. *Dryd.*

3. Great; worthy; illustrious.

Thus this man died, leaving his death for an example of a *noble* courage, and a memorial of virtue. 2 *Mac.* vi. 31.

To vice industrious, but to *nobler* deeds
Tim'rous. *Milton.*

A *noble* stroke he lifted high,
Which hung not, but with tempest fell. *Milt.*

Those two great things that so engross the desires and designs of both the *nobler* and ignobler sort of mankind, are to be found in religion; namely, wisdom and pleasure. *South.*

4. Exalted; elevated; sublime.

My share in pale Pyrene I resign,
And claim no part in all the mighty nine:
Statues, with winding ivy crown'd belong
To *nobler* poets, for a *nobler* song. *Dryd.*

5. Magnificent; stately: as, a *noble* parade.

6. Free; generous; liberal.

7. Principal; capital: as, the heart is one of the *noble* parts of the body.

NO'BLE. *n. s.*

1. One of high rank.

Upon the *nobles* of the children of Israel he laid not his hand. *Ex.* xxiv. 11.

How many *nobles* then should hold their places,
That must strike sail to spirits of vile sort! *Shakesp.*

What the *nobles* once said in parliament, Nolumus leges Angliæ mutari, is imprinted in the hearts of all the people. *Bacon.*

The *nobles* amongst the Romans took special care in their last wills, that they might have a lamp in their monuments. *Wilkin's Math. Magic.*

See all our *nobles* begging to be slaves,
See all our fools aspiring to be knaves. *Pope, Dial.* i.

It may be the disposition of young *nobles*, that they expect the accomplishments of a good education without the least expence of time or study. *Swift's Modern Education.*

The second natural division of power, is of such men who have acquired large possessions, and consequently dependencies; or descend from ancestors who have left them great inheritances, together with an hereditary authority: these easily unite in thoughts and opinions. Thus commences a great council or senate of *nobles*, for the weighty affairs of the nation. *Swift.*

2. A coin rated at six shillings and eight-pence; the sum of six and eight-pence.

Shortly after he coined *nobles*, of noble, fair, and fine gold. *Camden's Remains.*

Many fair promotions
Are daily given, to enoble those
That scarce, some two days since, were worth a *noble*. *Sha.*

Upon every writ procured for debt or damage, amounting to forty pounds or more, a *noble*, that is six shillings and eight-pence, is, and usually hath been paid to fine. *Bacon.*

NO'BLE *livewort*. [Hepatica.] A plant.

The characters are: the root is fibrose and perennial: the leaf consists of three lobes on a pedicle, which arises from the root; as does the pedicle of the flower, which is naked and single: the cup of the flower is, for the most part, composed of one leaf sometimes cut into three or four deep divisions: the flower consists of many leaves, which expand in form of a rose: the fruit is globular, consisting of one single cell curvated. *Miller.*

NO'BLEMAN. *n. s.* [*noble* and *man*.] One who is ennobled.

If I blush,
It is to see a *nobleman* want manners. *Shakes. Hen.* VIII.

The *nobleman* is he, whose noble mind
Is fill'd with inborn worth. *Dryden's Wife of Bath.*

NO'BLENESS. *n. s.* [from *noble*.]

1. Greatness; worth; dignity; magnanimity.

The *nobleness* of life
Is to do this; when such a mutual pair,
And such a twain can do't. *Shakes. Ant. and Cleopatra.*

Any thing
That my ability may undergo,
And *nobleness* impose. *Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.*

True *nobleness* would
Learn him forbearance from so foul a wrong. *Shakesp.*

He that does as well in private between God and his own soul, as in public, hath given himself a good testimony that his purposes are full of honesty, *nobleness*, and integrity. *Taylor's Holy Living.*

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